

THE PARTS THEY PLAYED

Story of an American in the War in Belgium

By ALAN HINSDALE

Albert Clarke, an American boy, when the great European war broke out, having a desire to take part in it, went to Canada, where he enlisted in a regiment of infantry and in due time was sent to Belgium. In a fight he was taken prisoner, and while being marched to the rear with a number of his comrades, his guard being inattentive, he managed to slip away. Just as he was passing out of sight of his captors he was seen, and they gave chase.

Clarke ran into a yard in the center of which stood a house. The first thing in his path that afforded a hiding place was a well. It struck him that no one would think of looking for a man in the bottom of a well. The arrangement for drawing water was a long pole, the bucket being at one end and a huge stone at the other. This enabled him to descend with less rapidity than if not partly counterbalanced by the stone, though he went down much faster than he would have chosen.

The other end of the balance pole being up in the air was a dead give away, so he emptied the bucket, let go his hold and it went up as fast as it had come down.

Clarke's pursuers, fortunately for him, did not reach sight of the well house till a few moments after the bucket had gone up. As he had hoped, they did not stop to look into the well, but continued on their way. But it soon occurred to Bert that if he had not jumped from the frying pan into the fire he had at least jumped from a German prison into cold water. Although the season was in the early summer the bath was by no means tepid.

All he could do was to get one foot on a stone on one side of the well and the other foot on the other side, stand there above the surface and wait for some one to come to the well for water. His life depended upon some one coming within a reasonable time, for if the arrival were put off too long he would either starve or be chilled to death. Looking up, he examined the circle of stone forming the well and saw that the surface was too smooth for him to climb. It was only at the lower part that the stones afforded a foothold.

Bert had been captured in the morning and escaped about noon. He had stood in his trying position for six hours when he was gladdened by the sound of a bucket striking the ground. In another moment the well bucket was lowered and filled. Bert would have climbed the rod connecting it with the balance pole, but his strength had gone out of him. So when the bucket came to the surface of the water he emptied it and held on to it for an ascent, doing what he could to lighten it by clutching here and there the circling wall.

When he reached the well house there was a shriek, and down he went again to the bottom. A girl, instead of drawing up a bucket of water, had drawn up a man, and the discovery was a great shock to her. She ran away from the well house, but presently, curiosity getting the better of her fright, she turned and looked back. There was the well, the bucket hanging over it, and silence.

It occurred to her that the man had returned to the bottom, and a man at the bottom of a well was not necessarily an object of terror. Then she realized the man's position. Lastly, she went back to the well house and, without daring to look over, called out: "Who's there?"

Bert knew a little French and replied:

"Anglais soldat" (English soldier). This helped matters amazingly. The girl was a Belgian and knew that the English were fighting for her country. Bert asked her in a mixture of French and English to lower the bucket and help him out. She did not understand him, but common sense suggested that this be done and done quickly. Down went the bucket again. Bert took hold of it and with difficulty was raised to the surface. Once there he took the precaution to catch hold of a support so that he would not go down a third time.

He was a pitiable spectacle, drenched and chilled as he was; indeed, just the object to excite the sympathy of a woman. She helped him out of the well house, and after she had assured him by French, English and pantomime that there were no German soldiers very near, he started with her to the house as fast as he was able, lest some enemy might see him, for there was the boom of cannon all about him.

At the house was a woman—the girl's mother—and several children. The men of the household were all fighting for Belgium. After a few words of explanation the girl went to a cupboard and brought out a bottle. It was only wine, but Bert made up for its want of strength by drinking it all. Then the girl brought out some bread and cheese—there was no meat in Belgium—and the soldier consumed it ravenously. Meanwhile the mother lighted a fire on the hearth, and by its warmth his clothes were dried, though

later other clothes that belonged to the men of the family were provided for him.

Bert did not feel very secure, for he was within the German lines and Germans were liable to come to the house at any moment. He was taken to the garret, where a mattress was placed on the floor behind a pile of discarded furniture, and on this bed he spent the night. In the morning he was at a loss to know whether to put on his khaki uniform or the citizen's clothes that had been provided for him. If he wore his uniform he would be recognized for a soldier; if he wore the citizen's clothes, though he might the better escape attention, if known to be an enemy he would be shot for a spy. He concluded to take the latter risk, and if confronted by enemies undertake to pass himself off for a member of the family that harbored him.

Several days passed without any Germans entering the house or Bert's seeing any chance whatever to go back to the British lines. During those few days he learned more French than he had ever learned before, though he had studied it in school. The girl who had rescued him—Jeanne was her name—he found very attractive. She resembled a Dutch girl, having light hair and complexion, with a rose in each cheek.

One day some German soldiers, stragglers, came to the house and demanded something to eat. But Jeanne saw them coming, and Bert escaped to the garret.

He finally got into trouble through politeness. Water was needed, and since Jeanne was not on hand to get it Bert insisted on going to the well for it. While drawing the water several German officers entered the grounds. It was too late to take to flight, and Bert decided to stand his ground. The officers approached him, and one of them asked for a drink of water. Bert accommodated him, trying the while to fix his own mind on something else than the frightful danger he was running, in order that he might preserve his equanimity.

One of the Germans spoke French and asked him what so lusty a fellow was doing at home when there was war in the land. Bert replied that he was the only man on the premises and had just married a young wife, who would not let him go. He gave this reason knowing that all the world sympathizes with a young married couple.

"Perhaps something of the wedding feast is left," said the officer, "and we may be favored with a bite."

"There can be no wedding feasts in this country now," replied Bert, "but such as we have we will give you."

He led the way to the house. Jeanne had reappeared, and she and her mother, seeing what had happened, pulled themselves together for any part they might be expected to play.

"Ach," said one officer to another in German on seeing Jeanne, "one can't blame the fellow for staying at home with such a pretty bride as that."

The German and French languages are both spoken in Belgium, and Jeanne understood perfectly what he said, and since he looked from Bert to her she knew that he referred to them. She blushed, which under the circumstances was the most natural thing for her to do. Besides, she inferred that she was to play the part of Bert's bride. She brought out the best there was in the larder—it was not much—and there was plenty of wine in the cellar.

The officers had evidently been on short rations, for they ate all that was set before them and drank one bottle of wine after another till they were quite mellow. Then Jeanne said to them:

"Herr officers, I have a request to make of you."

"What is that, pretty one?"

"I was obliged to be married without a trousseau. That is a terrible thing for a bride. Will you give me a pass to go to Paris to buy one?"

"Certainly you shall have a pass."

"One thing more I have to ask—that my husband be permitted to go with me."

"Ach! That is a different matter."

"Do you think a bride just married would consent to leave her husband? If he cannot go with me I will not go at all."

The officers discussed the matter between them, Jeanne persisting in her request till finally one of the officers, who seemed to have the highest rank and had drunk the most wine declared that so pretty a bride who had entertained them so well should have any boon she asked, and, calling for pen and paper, he wrote a pass for the two to go through the lines. Then, demanding a kiss of the bride, which was granted, he led the rest away.

Bert and Jeanne were left alone together. Bert stood looking at her with an expression of gratitude mingled with admiration. She had been playing the part of his wife and by so doing had prevented his being shot for a spy.

"My life is yours," said Bert. "Do with it as you will."

She dropped her eyes to the ground. Bert took her hand in his, and the two stood mute, she with averted face. Presently he said:

"I am a soldier, and if I succeed in reaching the British lines I must serve out my term of enlistment. When that ends, if I still live and I can get back here, I will come to you. My home is in that far country America, which you have heard about, and it has been so protected by oceans that there has been little or no war there. If I return there and you will go with me I will take you. In that case we will make a reality of what has been a pretense."

The response to this was more effective than if it had been spoken in words. Jeanne turned toward him, and her hand sank on his breast.

"LO, WE TURN TO THE GENTILES!"

Acts 13:13-15, 44-46—May 14.

St. Paul's First Missionary Tour—His Sermon at Antioch in Pisidia—Effect of His Discourse Twofold—Violent Opposition From Those Blinded by Sectarian Prejudice.

"I have set thee for a light of the Gentiles, that thou shouldst be for salvation unto the uttermost part of the earth."—Verse 47. R. V.

FROM Antioch Paul and Barnabas went to Seleucia, where they took ship for the island of Cyprus, probably because Barnabas was a native of that land. With them went a cousin of Barnabas, John Mark, writer of the Gospel of Mark and son of one of the Marys at Jerusalem. They passed through the island, preaching Christ from village to village on the way. Apparently nothing of note occurred until they reached Paphos, where they came into contact with Elymas, a Jewish sorcerer.

Perceiving that St. Paul's reasoning was interesting the Roman deputy, or proconsul, Elymas sought to gainsay the Truth, recognizing that the Apostle's success meant loss of prestige to his own presentations of falsehood. St. Paul made a plain statement of the case, and declared that as a punishment the hand of the Lord would be upon the magician, so that he would become blind. This manifestation of Divine power enabled the proconsul to reach the right conclusion and to decide to be upon the Lord's side.

Then St. Paul and his company departed for Asia Minor. Today's Study briefly states that John Mark left the missionaries and returned to Jerusalem, but gives no reason for his departure. But whatever the cause, the Apostle Paul considered it quite insufficient. (Acts 15:38.) Later on, however, Mark was again accepted to the Lord's service, and St. Paul made due acknowledgment of his faithfulness.

The first stop made in Asia Minor was at Antioch in Pisidia. The usual custom was followed—of going first to the synagogue. The missionaries were recognized as men of talent; and after the reading of the usual lesson from the Law, they were invited to address the assembly—Jews by birth, and Jewish proselytes from the Gentiles. The Apostle Paul was the speaker and made a telling address.

The Very Essence of the Gospel.

The trend of the Apostle's discourse was chiefly to show that in the past God had established a typical kingdom which had never reached the grand stage essential to the fulfillment of the Abrahamic Promise (Genesis 22:18); and that the thing necessary and lacking was a REDEMPTION of the world and the forgiveness of sins. Then he presented to their attention Jesus as the Messiah—not merely a crucified Messiah, but also a risen One who, because of His death for the sin of the world, was able to save unto the uttermost all that should come unto God through Him.

The discourse had a twofold effect. The honest-hearted, realizing their need of just such a Savior as the Apostle had preached, were especially drawn to the missionaries, who recognized their right attitude of heart and assured them that they were already in God's favor. Others were much less prepared for the Apostle's words, and were inclined to be envious of the attention bestowed upon the missionaries and their teaching.

On the next Sabbath the whole city gathered to hear the Message of the missionaries. Such attention to two strangers and their new doctrine naturally awakened a spirit of jealousy in those whose interest was much in forms and ceremonies, honor amongst men and denominational pride. As a result, they contradicted St. Paul with blasphemy—not that they blasphemed God's name, but that they slandered, blasphemed, the Apostle and Barnabas, speaking evil of them, misrepresenting their motives, their character, etc. This is the usual course of those who fight against the Truth.

The missionaries courageously explained to their vilifiers that they were rejecting God's Plan for their own injury. They pointed out that God had long favored Israel; and that in sending the Message of Messiah to the Jews first, He was still favoring them; but that according to His direction the Gospel was to be preached to whoever had ears to hear—whether Jew or Gentile. Many of the Gentiles were glad to hear that God's favor was broader than they had previously supposed. And some of them, we are assured, believed in the true sense of the word, accepting Christ as their Redeemer.

But the more the Truth spread, the more angry grew its opponents, the Jewish leaders. By misrepresentation they secured the cooperation of some of the most honorable people of the city to such an extent that the missionaries were obliged to depart from that region.



Preaching Christ.

Clear Air.

The air is so clear at Arequipa, Peru, that from the observatory at that place, 8,060 feet above the sea, a black spot one inch in diameter placed on a white disk has been seen on Mount Chachani, a distance of eleven miles, through a thirteen inch telescope.

Commissioners' Notice.

In the matter of the estate of Etta Dutch, deceased.

We, the undersigned, having been appointed by the Hon. Matthew Bush, Judge of Probate in and for the County of Shiawassee, State of Michigan, commissioners to receive, examine and adjust all claims and demands of all persons against said estate do hereby give notice that we will meet at the office of Gustav F. Friege, in the City of Owosso, in said County on Saturday the 8th day of July, A. D. 1916 and on Friday, the 8th day of Sept. A. D. 1916, at ten o'clock in the forenoon of each of said days for the purpose of receiving and examining all claims against said estate, and that four months from the 8th day of May, A. D. 1916, are allowed to creditors to present their claims to said Commissioners for adjustment and allowance.

Dated the 8th day of May, A. D. 1916.

GUSTAV F. FRIEGEL,
Commissioners.

Order of Publication.

State of Michigan. The Probate Court for the County of Shiawassee.

At a session of the Probate Court for the County of Shiawassee, held at the Probate Office in the City of Owosso, on Thursday the 8th day of April, in the year one thousand nine hundred and sixteen.

Present, Matthew Bush, Judge of Probate.

In the matter of the estate of Samuel N. House, deceased.

On reading and filing the petition of Orrin T. Jennings praying for a license to sell real estate to pay taxes.

It is ordered, that the 15th day of May next, at ten o'clock in the forenoon, at said Probate Office, be assigned for hearing said petition.

And it is further ordered, that a copy of this order be published three successive weeks previous to said day of hearing, in the Owosso Times, a newspaper printed and circulating in said County of Shiawassee.

MATTHEW BUSH,
Judge of Probate.

By CLAIRBELL GALLOWAY,
Probate Register.

Order of Publication.

State of Michigan. The Probate Court for the County of Shiawassee.

At a session of the Probate Court for said County, held at the Probate Office, in the City of Owosso, on Wednesday, the 19th day of April, in the year one thousand nine hundred and sixteen.

Present, Matthew Bush, Judge of Probate.

In the matter of the estate of Clara J. Smith, formerly Clara J. McIntosh, a minor, on reading the petition of Maria McIntosh, praying for license to sell real estate.

It is ordered, that the 15th day of May next, at ten o'clock in the forenoon, at said Probate Office be assigned for hearing said petition.

And it is further ordered, that a copy of this order be published three successive weeks previous to the said day of hearing, in the Owosso Times, a newspaper printed and circulating in said County of Shiawassee.

MATTHEW BUSH,
Judge of Probate.

By CLAIRBELL GALLOWAY,
Probate Register.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT and of Special Assessment No. 131 for the Construction of a Sewer on Corunna Road From Lincoln Avenue east to City Limits.

To all whom it may concern:

Pursuant to a resolution of the Commission of the City of Owosso at a session held upon the 17th day of April, 1916, notice is hereby given that the City of Owosso proposes to make the following improvement, viz: To construct a sewer on Corunna road from Lincoln Avenue east to city limits; that plans specifications and estimates of cost are on file in my office for public inspection; that the Commission has designated as the special assessment district upon which the special assessment for said improvement shall be levied the land bounded as follows:

Commencing at the northwest corner of lot 1 of block 31 of George T. Abrey's Woodlawn Park Addition to the City of Owosso, thence southwesterly along the west line of said lot to the north line of the east and west alley in said block; thence along the north line of said alley to the west line of Parkdale Avenue; thence north along the west line of Parkdale Avenue to a point 132 feet south of the south line of Corunna Avenue; thence east on a line parallel with the south line of Corunna Avenue to the southeast corner of lot 4 of block 30 of said addition; thence north to a point 132 feet north of the north line of Corunna Avenue; thence west on a line parallel with the north line of Corunna Avenue to the east line of Lincoln Avenue, if extended would intersect the north line of Corunna Avenue; thence south to the place of beginning, all in Shiawassee County, Michigan.

The Commission of the City of Owosso will meet at its regular session on Monday, May 22nd, 1916, at 7:30 o'clock in the afternoon when it will hear objections to the improvement as aforesaid and to the district to be assessed.

Notice is also hereby given that the special assessment heretofore made by the City assessor for the purpose of defraying that portion of the cost which the Commission decided should be paid and borne by special assessment for the improvement as aforesaid is now on file in my office for public inspection. The Commission of the City of Owosso will meet at its regular session on Monday, May 22nd, 1916, at 7:30 o'clock in the afternoon to review the special assessment and hear any objections to any assessment which may be made by any person deeming himself aggrieved thereby.

Dated May 4th, 1916.

ARTHUR H. DUMOND,
City Clerk.

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Commissioners' Notice.

In the matter of the estate of Charlotte Lewis, deceased.

We, the undersigned, having been appointed by the Hon. Matthew Bush, Judge of Probate in and for the County of Shiawassee, State of Michigan, commissioners to receive, examine and adjust all claims and demands of all persons against said estate, do hereby give notice that we will meet at the State Exchange Bank in the Village of Bacteroff, in said County, on Saturday, the 17th day of June, A. D. 1916, and on Thursday, the 17th day of August, A. D. 1916 at ten o'clock in the forenoon of each of said days, for the purpose of receiving and examining all claims against said estate, and that four months from the 17th day of April, A. D. 1916, are allowed to creditors to present their claims to said Commissioners for adjustment and allowance.

Dated the 17th day of April, A. D. 1916.

HUGH PARKER,
JOHN DRISCOLL,
Commissioners.

Commissioners' Notice.

In the matter of the estate of Joseph Constine, deceased.

We, the undersigned, having been appointed by the Hon. Matthew Bush, Judge of Probate in and for the County of Shiawassee, State of Michigan, commissioners to receive, examine and adjust all claims and demands of all persons against said estate, do hereby give notice that we will meet at the office of Gustav F. Friege, in the City of Owosso, in said County, on Saturday the 8th day of June, A. D. 1916, and on Thursday, the 24th day of August, A. D. 1916 at ten o'clock in the forenoon of each of said days, for the purpose of receiving and adjusting all claims against said estate and that four months from the 8th day of April, A. D. 1916, are allowed to creditors to present their claims to said Commissioners for adjustment and allowance.

Dated the 31st day of April, A. D. 1916.

GUSTAV F. FRIEGEL,
JULIUS KESLER,
Commissioners.

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